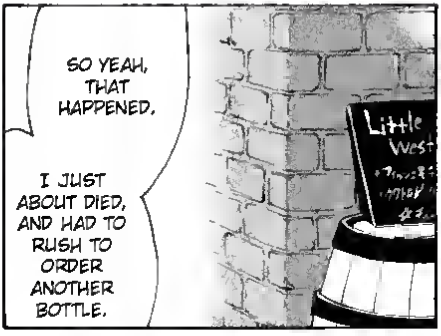
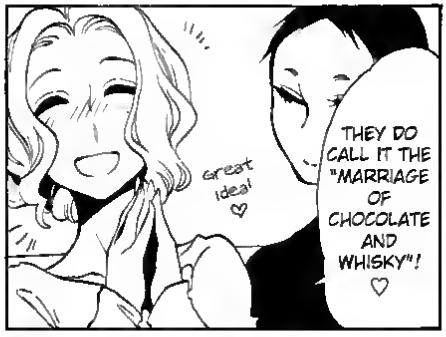
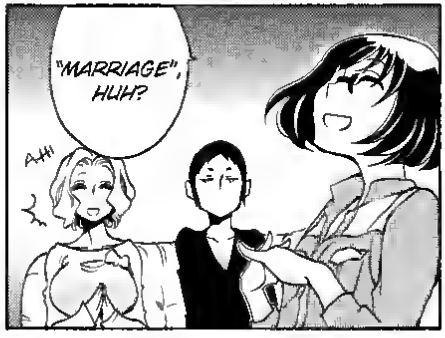
HMM, WELL...
OH? HOW'S IT TASTE?
open
I'LL BRING IT WITH ME NEXT WEEK-END.
YEAH, THE ONE I ORDERED JUST GOT HERE TODAY.
IT WAS AGED IN A SHERRY CASK, AFTER ALL.
POP
IT'S JUST A LITTLE SMOKY,
AND I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT FRUITY?
IT'S A REALLY GOOD ONE TOO!
SURE, WHY NOT? YOUR DAD'LL ENJOY IT.
WHISKY FOR VALEN-TINE'S DAY, HUH?
10TH GLASS
MICCHAN DRINKS WITH CHOCOLATE
I opened it.
The MACALLAN 12
IT'S ALMOST LIKE A FRUIT BRANDY, SO IT'S EASY TO DRINK EVEN FOR BEGIN-NRHK
UUUUU UUUUN NNH!?

AND HAVE SOME CHOCOLATE WITH OUR DRINKS?!
IT'S THE SEASON, SO WHY DON'T WE GO WITH A VALENTINE THEME.
OOH!

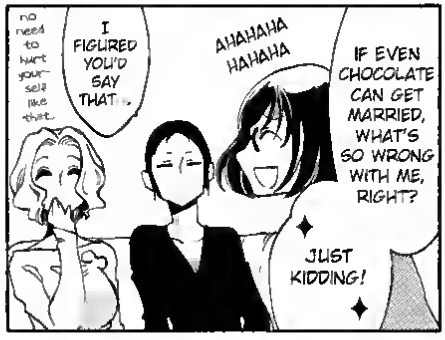

SO YEAH, THAT HAPPENED.
I JUST ABOUT DIED, AND HAD TO RUSH TO ORDER ANOTHER BOTTLE.


THEY DO CALL IT THE "MARRIAGE OF CHOCOLATE AND WHISKY"! ♡
great idea! ♡

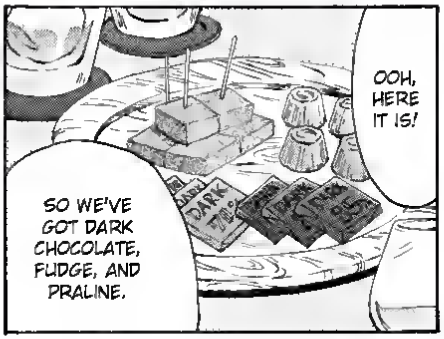
I DON'T THINK THAT COUNTS AS "WELL".
down to the wire though
BUT IT JUST BARELY CAME IN TIME, SO ALL'S WELL THAT ENDS WELL.
shhhhhhirt


"MARRIAGE", HUH?
AHH

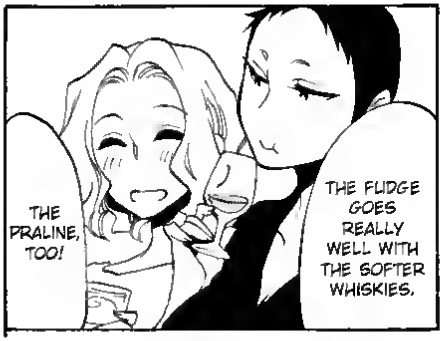
AFTER I ACCIDENTALLY HAD SOME OF THAT GOOD WHISKY...
AND SO,
"ACCIDENTALLY", HUH?

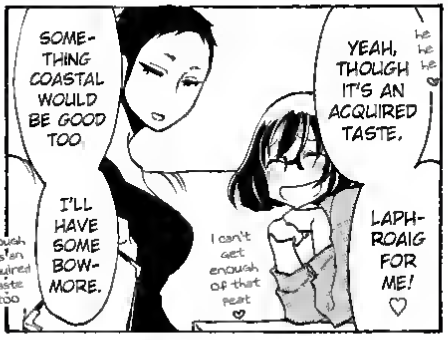

no need to hurt yourself like that.
I FIGURED YOU'D SAY THAT...
AHAHAHA HAHAHA
IF EVEN CHOCOLATE CAN GET MARRIED, WHAT'S SO WRONG WITH ME, RIGHT?
JUST KIDDING!

so that's why you brought us here.
well what ever
I GOT A CRAVING TO TRY SOME OTHER FANCY STUFF! ♡
SO HERE WE ARE!

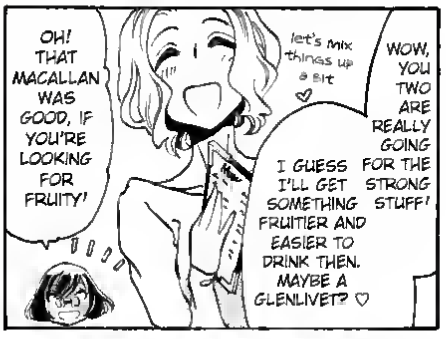

OOH, HERE IT IS!
SO WE'VE GOT DARK CHOCOLATE, FUDGE, AND PRALINE.
DARK
DARK
DARK

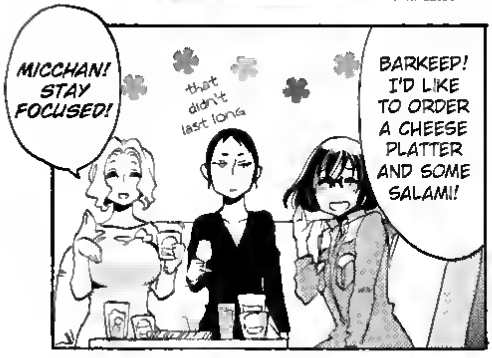
WHICH WHISKY~ WHICH WHISKY~ ♪
MICCHAN, YOU LIKE STRONG, SMOKY ONES, RIGHT?

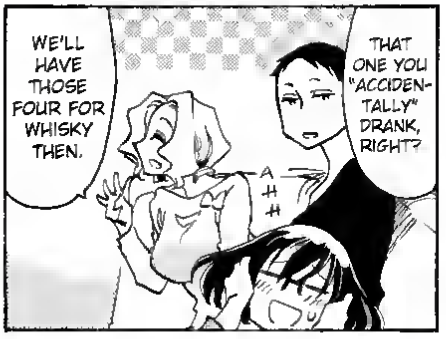

THE FUDGE GOES REALLY WELL WITH THE SOFTER WHISKIES.
THE PRALINE, TOO!

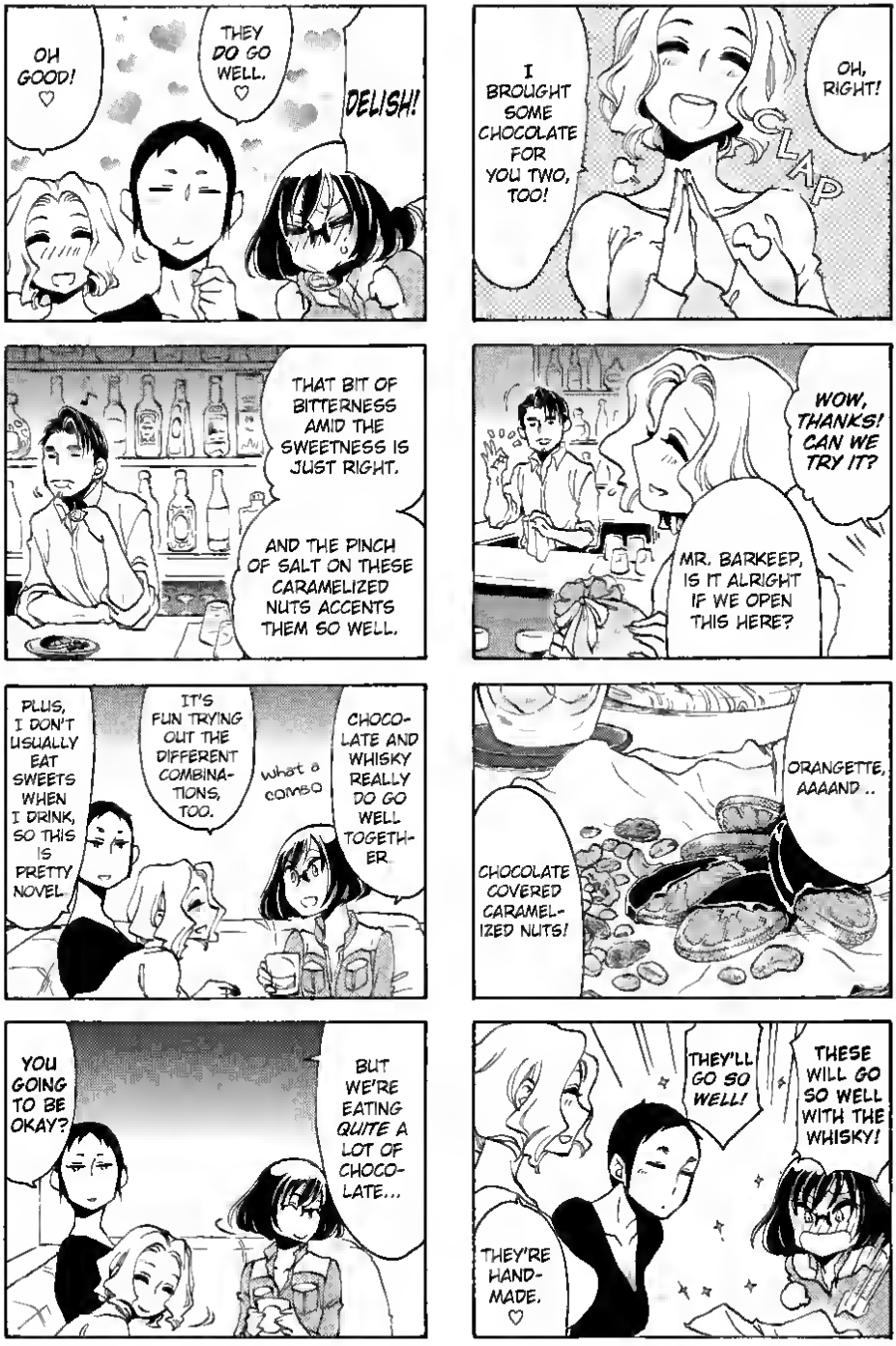

YEAH, THOUGH IT'S AN ACQUIRED TASTE.
he he he
LAPH-ROAIG FOR ME! ♡
I can't get enough of that peat ♡
SOME-THING COASTAL WOULD BE GOOD TOO.
I'LL HAVE SOME BOW-MORE.
though it's an acquired taste too

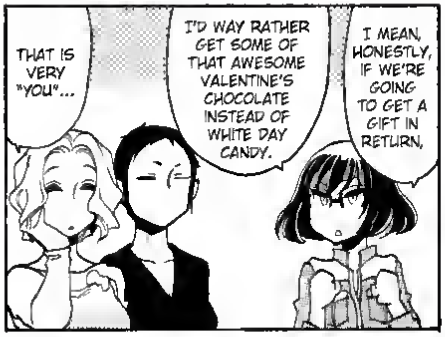
MMM
SNAP
AND THE DARK CHOCOLATE IS GREAT WITH THIS SMOKY ONE.
...IT'S GREAT, BUT...


WOW, YOU TWO ARE REALLY GOING FOR THE STRONG STUFF!
let's mix things up a bit ♡
OH! THAT MACALLAN WAS GOOD, IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR FRUITY!
I GUESS I'LL GET SOMETHING FRUITIER AND EASIER TO DRINK THEN. MAYBE A GLENLIVET? ♡

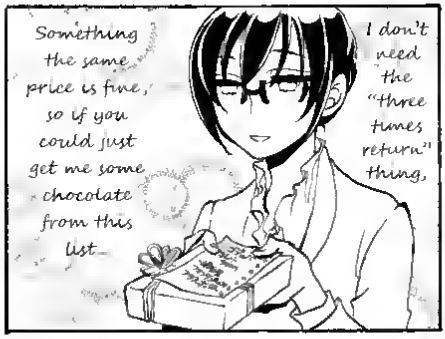

BARKEEP! I'D LIKE TO ORDER A CHEESE PLATTER AND SOME SALAMI!
that didn't last long
MICCHAN! STAY FOCUSED!


THAT ONE YOU "ACCIDEN-TALLY" DRANK, RIGHT?
AHH
WE'LL HAVE THOSE FOUR FOR WHISKY THEN.

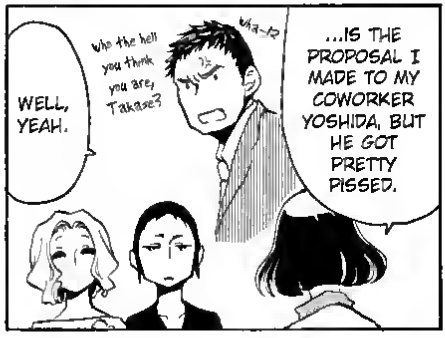

OH GOOD! ♡
THEY DO GO WELL. ♡
DELISH!
I BROUGHT SOME CHOCOLATE FOR YOU TWO, TOO!
CLAP
OH, RIGHT!
THAT BIT OF BITTERNESS AMID THE SWEETNESS IS JUST RIGHT.
AND THE PINCH OF SALT ON THESE CARAMELIZED NUTS ACCENTS THEM SO WELL.
WOW, THANKS! CAN WE TRY IT?
MR. BARKEEP, IS IT ALRIGHT IF WE OPEN THIS HERE?
PLUS, I DON'T USUALLY EAT SWEETS WHEN I DRINK, SO THIS IS PRETTY NOVEL.
IT'S FUN TRYING OUT THE DIFFERENT COMBINATIONS, TOO.
What a combo
CHOCOLATE AND WHISKY REALLY DO GO WELL TOGETHER.
ORANGETTE, AAAAND ..
CHOCOLATE COVERED CARAMELIZED NUTS!
YOU GOING TO BE OKAY?
BUT WE'RE EATING QUITE A LOT OF CHOCOLATE...
THEY'LL GO SO WELL!
THESE WILL GO SO WELL WITH THE WHISKY!
THEY'RE HANDMADE. ♡

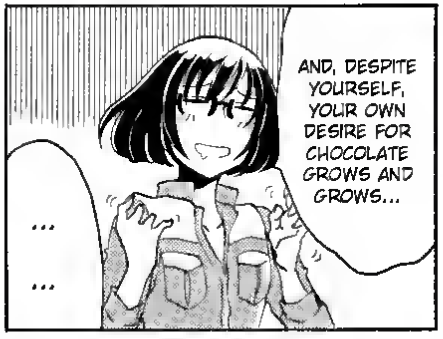

THAT IS VERY "YOU"...
I'D WAY RATHER GET SOME OF THAT AWESOME VALENTINE'S CHOCOLATE INSTEAD OF WHITE DAY CANDY.
I MEAN, HONESTLY, IF WE'RE GOING TO GET A GIFT IN RETURN,

COME ON THOUGH, THE STORES ARE JUST BRIMMING WITH DELICIOUS-LOOKING CHOCOLATE THIS TIME OF THE YEAR!


Something the same price is fine, so if you could just get me some chocolate from this list...
I don't need the "three times return" thing,

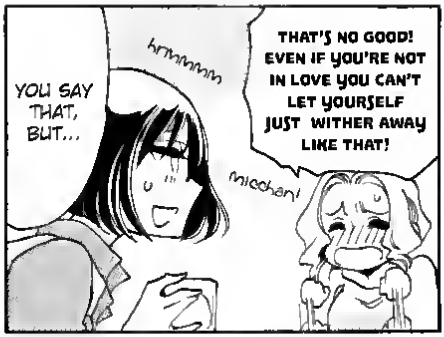
"I WONDER WHICH WOULD BE GOOD,"
"I WONDER WHICH ONE THEY'D BE HAPPY TO GET..."
...YOU THINK, WHILE TRYING TO PICK OUT WHICH TO BUY.

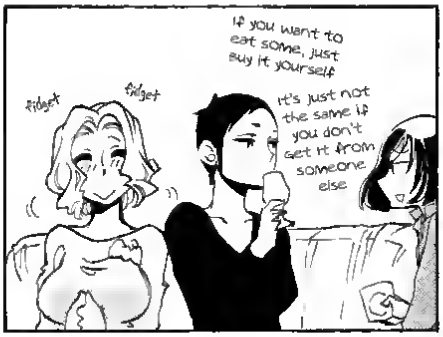

WELL, YEAH.
Who the hell you think you are, Takase?
...IS THE PROPOSAL I MADE TO MY COWORKER YOSHIDA, BUT HE GOT PRETTY PISSED.

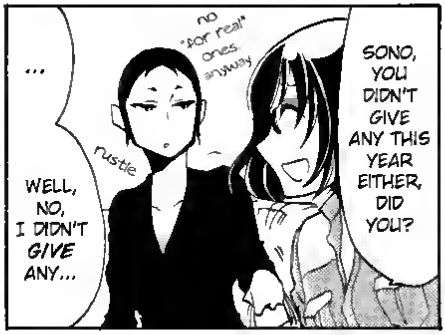

AND, DESPITE YOURSELF, YOUR OWN DESIRE FOR CHOCOLATE GROWS AND GROWS...
...
...

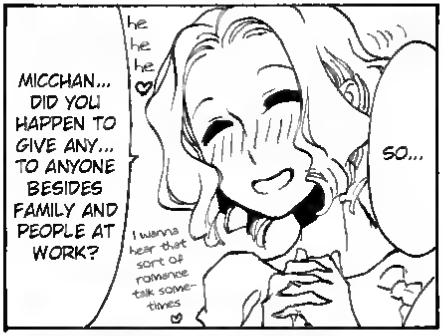
HE SEEMS LIKE A NICE PERSON
standing in line for this was hell, you know!
he was real mad
BUT HE STILL GAVE ME THIS, DESPITE THE STEAM COMING OUT OF HIS EARS
POOR GUY...

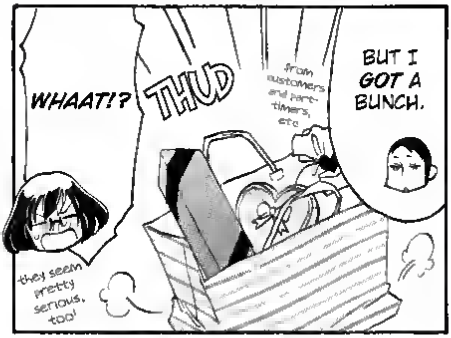
AAAUGH, VALENTINE'S DAY IS SO UNFAIR!!
UH OH! I THINK SHE SNAPPED!
I WANT TO GET CHOCOLATE TOO!!

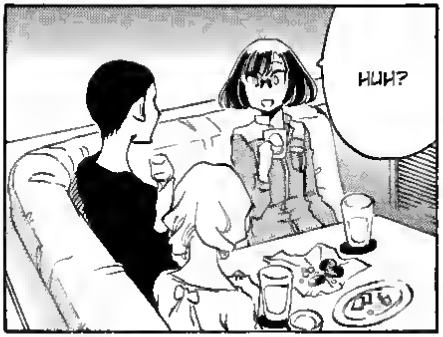

YOU SAY THAT, BUT...
hrmmmm
THAT'S NO GOOD! EVEN IF YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE YOU CAN'T LET YOURSELF JUST WITHER AWAY LIKE THAT!
micchan!

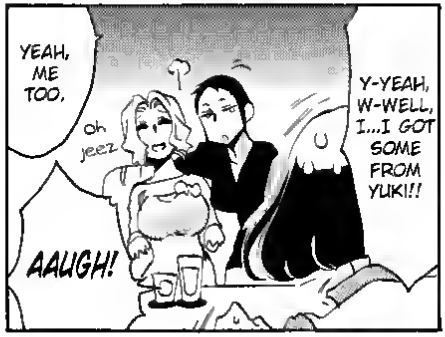

If you want to eat some, just buy it yourself
fidget
fidget
It's just not the same if you don't get it from someone else

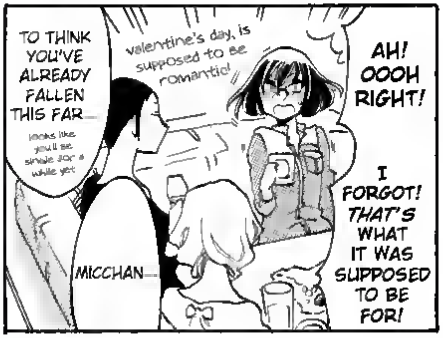

...
WELL, NO, I DIDN'T GIVE ANY...
rustle
no "for real" ones anyway
SONO, YOU DIDN'T GIVE ANY THIS YEAR EITHER, DID YOU?

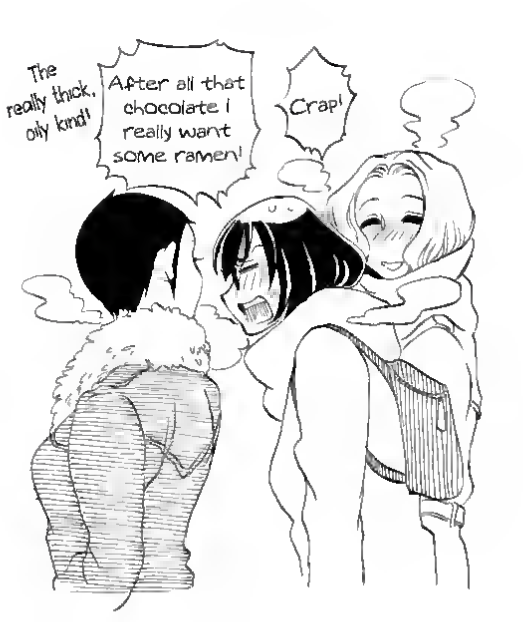

MICCHAN... DID YOU HAPPEN TO GIVE ANY... TO ANYONE BESIDES FAMILY AND PEOPLE AT WORK?
he he he
I wanna hear that sort of romance talk sometimes
SO...


WHAAT!?
THUD
from customers and part-timers, etc.
BUT I GOT A BUNCH.
they seem pretty serious, too!


HUH?


YEAH, ME TOO.
oh jeez
Y-YEAH, W-WELL, I...I GOT SOME FROM YUKI!!!
AAUGH!


TO THINK YOU'VE ALREADY FALLEN THIS FAR...
looks like you'll be single for a while yet
valentine's day, is supposed to be romantic!
AH! OOOH RIGHT!
I FORGOT! THAT'S WHAT IT WAS SUPPOSED TO BE FOR!
MICCHAN...


The really thick, oily kind!
After all that chocolate I really want some ramen!
Crap!

CREDITS!

UKATSU!

NOTES!

I LEARNED A LOT ABOUT WHISKY/WHISKEY THIS CHAPTER.

SO, MICCHAN'S GIFT TO HER DAD IS A BOTTLE OF MACALLAN 12 (MEANING IT HAS BEEN AGED 12 YEARS). MACALLAN IS A POPULAR BRAND OF SCOTCH, A TYPE OF WHISKY ONLY MADE IN SCOTLAND (BY LAW! CHECK WIKIPEDIA IF YOU'RE INTERESTED).

AS MICCHAN MENTIONED, MACALLAN (ALONG WITH MANY OTHER TYPES OF WHISKY) IS AGED PRIMARILY IN USED SHERRY CASKS (SHERRY, BY THE WAY, IS A TYPE OF WINE). WHEN THE WHISKY SOAKS IN A SHERRY CASK FOR MANY YEARS IT TAKES ON SOME OF THE FRUITY FLAVOR OF THE SHERRY.

LAPHROAIG IS ANOTHER TYPE OF SCOTCH (CURRENTLY OWNED BY THE JAPANESE COMPANY SUNTORY, WHICH DOES A LOT OF ALCOHOL AND ESPECIALLY WHISKY). LAPHROAIG IS WELL KNOWN FOR HAVING A VERY STRONG SMOKY/PEATY TASTE.

BOWMORE IS YET ANOTHER BRAND OF SCOTCH, ALSO OWNED BY JAPANESE GIANT SUNTORY. WHILE STILL SMOKY/PEATY, IT IS APPARENTLY A GOOD DEAL LIGHTER THAN LAPHROAIG. I'M NOT ENTIRELY SURE WHAT "COASTAL" IMPLIES WITH REGARD TO HOW IT TASTES.

GLENLIVET IS, YOU GUESSED IT, ANOTHER BRAND OF SCOTCH (NOT OWNED BY SUNTORY THIS TIME THOUGH). IT IS APPARENTLY THE SECOND LARGEST PRODUCER IN THE WORLD (ACCORDING TO WIKI). IT IS LESS STRONG AND MORE SUITED TO MASS APPEAL THAN THE SOMETHING LIKE LAPHROAIG OR BOWMORE, BUT IS STILL APPARENTLY A PRETTY DECENT DRINK.

PRALINES ARE A COMBINATION OF NUTS AND (TYPICALLY CARAMELIZED) SUGAR, PLUS CREAM, CHOCOLATE, OR OTHER THINGS DEPENDING ON THE RECIPE. IN THIS PARTICULAR CASE I THINK THEY ARE CHOCOLATE COVERED BELGIAN-STYLE ONES.

ORANGETTE IS ORANGE SLICES/PEELS THAT HAVE BEEN SUGARED AND PARTIALLY DIPPED IN CHOCOLATE (GENERALLY, ANYWAY, I THINK THERE ARE OTHER VERSIONS).

THE CARAMELIZED NUTS WITH CHOCOLATE ARE JUST LIKE WHAT THEY SOUND LIKE.

YES, SONO IS REFERRING TO CALORIES WHEN ASKING ABOUT WHETHER THEY OTHER TWO WILL BE ALRIGHT, IN CASE ANYONE DIDN'T CATCH THAT. OBVIOUSLY SONO HERSELF DOESN'T CARE ABOUT THE CALORIES BECAUSE IT'S JUST MORE FUEL FOR THE MUSCLE MACHINE RAAAGH.

VALENTINE'S DAY IN JAPAN IS A LITTLE SPECIAL. INSTEAD OF BEING A GENERICALLY ROMANTIC HOLIDAY, IT IS SPECIFICALLY A DAY FOR GIRLS TO GIVE FANCY AND/OR HANDMADE CHOCOLATE TO A GUY (OR GIRL, SEE THE ONES SONO GOT) THEY HAVE FEELINGS FOR. IT HAS ALSO BECOME CUSTOMARY TO GIVE CHEAPO "DUTY" CHOCOLATES TO YOUR MALE COWORKERS/CLASSMATES/FRIENDS/FAMILY. SOME WOMEN, LIKE YUKI HERE, ALSO GIVE SOME TO THEIR FEMALE FRIENDS AS WELL.

AND IF THAT WASN'T COMMERCIALIZED ENOUGH FOR YOU, THEY ALSO CREATED AN ENTIRELY NEW HOLIDAY, "WHITE DAY" (ON MARCH 14TH, ONE MONTH AFTER VALENTINE'S DAY), WHERE MEN WHO RECEIVED CHOCOLATE ARE EXPECTED TO RETURN THE FAVOR BY GETTING THE CHOCOLATE-GIVER SOMETHING WORTH ABOUT THREE TIMES AS MUCH (SOME SORT OF SWEETS, USUALLY).

HENCE WHY YOSHIDA WAS SO EMBARRASSED TO BE BUYING IT: GENERALLY ONLY WOMEN ARE BUYING CHOCOLATE FOR VALENTINE'S DAY. HE PROBABLY THOUGHT PEOPLE WERE ASSUMING HE WAS A LOSER BUYING IT FOR HIMSELF.

BOWMORE
BOWMORE
12

THE GLENLIVET
12
THE GLENLIVET
12

1815
LAPHROAIG
ISLAY SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
10
Years Old
LAPHROAIG
ISLAY SINGLE MALT SCOTCH WHISKY
10
Years Old

The MACALLAN
12
The MACALLAN
12

Orangette